

No Business As Usual

April 29, 1985

961

3424

020

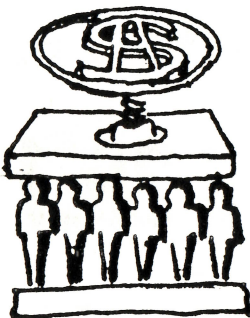
1355

In Canada, and throughout the world, countless lives, human and non-human alike, are led under the spectre of corporate domination. For the huge multinational corporations, these few that control so many, business as usual means escalation of arms production, active support for fascist regimes in the Third World, cruel and pointless vivisection and factory farming, the poisoning and industrialized rape of our Mother Earth, the oppression of humans by humans, and the list continues.

We and others believe that at the root of these atrocities lies a general stifling of self-respect, mutual respect, and personal responsibility, which accompanies the existence of any form of external government. As an antidote, we suggest direct action as a means of protest. The best way to counteract our oppression is to act individually and collectively for solutions to common problems.

April 29, 1985 has been agreed upon as an international day of non-violent interference with the day to day activities of the corporations and governments that threaten our lives. This idea has developed from the "War Chest Tours" that originated in San Francisco, and the "Stop The City" days that have immobilized corporate activities in London, England for the last few years. Similar events have taken place at the Democratic Party Convention in San Francisco, and at the Republican National Convention in Dallas in 1984, and in various locations across Europe.

A group of us plan to work together on this day. We invite you to act either individually, in groups of your own, or to join us in action against oppression on April 29.

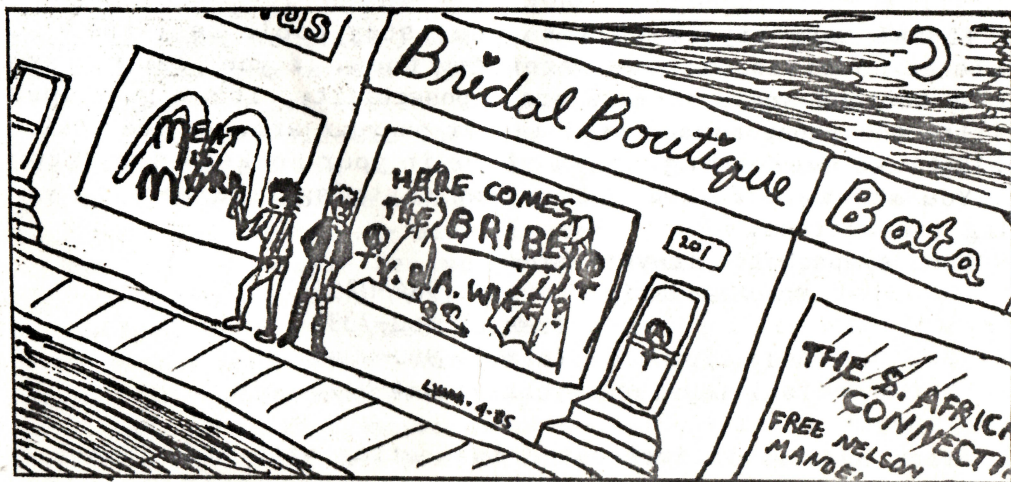


The "War Chest Tours" involved going from corporate office to corporate office, getting inside if possible, reading and passing out information about the various crimes they are committing, disrupting their normal business procedures, and damaging their property when possible. Many corporations have hundreds of subsidiaries or branches, especially banks and military financiers which provide a variety of convenient targets in your neighbourhood.

Phone Blockades: One of the lifelines of a corporation is the phone network. Get some of your friends together and call a selected target. Make sure that you all call during the same time.

Some of the actions taken during the "War Chest Tours" were: Die-ins inside banks and corporate office buildings, spray painting inside malls and buildings (as well as outside), shoplifting inside large department stores (an example in Toronto might be Eaton's), destruction of property (such as flags and other symbols of oppression - this could be expanded to include any variety of things), or generally messing-up the place. In banks, deposit and withdrawal slips were strewn about like confetti, and in stores, objects were knocked off counters and shelves (consumer luxuries, displays and ads, and offensive items such as war toys). Other actions people here have thought of are: weaving webs with coloured yarn to block-off passage ways, marking items in stores with "free" stickers or other messages, releasing banners with helium balloons inside large public areas, damaging goods, stink bombs in strategic places, burning or distributing money, lock glueing, pouring dye and soap in fountains, leafletting (eg - lists of corporate / government / military connections), putting messages on money, or calling into work sick.

You may wish to direct your actions against particular forms of oppression experienced in your daily lives, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism, speciesism, classism, etc.



Security

Because some of the actions described are illegal, certain security precautions should be taken. Avoid discussing the details of your actions over the phone or anywhere you might be overheard by the wrong people. Make your plans in a discreet location. In order for an action to be successful, the goal should be achieved with as little disruption in our own lives as possible. Arrests are rather big disruptions. As was discovered in San Francisco and Dallas last year, the media are biased. Some protesters were charged on photographic evidence provided by the media. To avoid this, wear a disguise. It could be as simple as a scarf over the face. Unless you plan to do civil disobedience actions where the arrest is part of the action, be prepared to move quickly. Light shoes and clothing are advisable. Plain colours make blending into crowds much easier. If you have a funny hair-cut or colour, bring a hat. Bicycles are faster than feet and smaller than police cars, and skateboards are even more portable.

If you want media at your actions, be aware that they may be in contact with the police and plan accordingly. If you are approached by the media, tell them the basic idea behind the day, and that it's decentralized, with each group doing their own thing independently, so you don't know what anyone else is doing, or how many people or groups are involved. Make clear that you are not an organizer, that there aren't any organizers. If they ask what you and your friends are doing, it's up to you what to say, but keep them interested without giving away too much.

If the cops try to talk to you, stay cool. Tell them as little as possible without offending them. If you plan to take part in actions where arrests are a possibility, it's a good idea to write the phone number of a lawyer on your arm, as the police usually take everything you may have in your pockets away from you. You may want to avoid carrying anything illegal with you during the actions.

Some sympathetic lawyers are:

Frank Addario (off.): 964-0751

(res.): 862-7338

Andy King (off.): 960-0049

Paul Copeland (off.): 964-8126

Frank Addario is interested in meeting with individuals or groups wishing to discuss legalities concerning civil disobedience or other actions.

NO TIME TO BE NICE!

O.K., let's just pretend that a nuclear confrontation is going to happen tomorrow. Let's just pretend that the bombs that were built over the years are going to be put to use. All the world will be destroyed, UNLESS WE ALL DO SOMETHING! Wouldn't you do all that you could, no matter what it took, to stop this catastrophe from happening?!

Well, wake up! This all could happen tomorrow. SO NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION AND STOP THIS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

BUT IT'S NOT THAT EASY...

Since childhood we learn to resign our conscience to someone or something else. In church, God makes decisions for our lives. In school, teachers make decisions for us. At home, parents make decisions for us. And, of course, we are constantly told that we should "trust our leaders" and let the government make decisions for our lives. We are never allowed to live with our own conscience, decisions, authority, or commitment to what we feel is right. If we ever saw that the future of our lives lies in our own hands, then we would see our responsibility to take the future into our hands and change the path it is taking now! We wouldn't sit passively by while politicians make decisions for us, we would take action now!!!

BUT YOU'RE ALLOWED TO CHANGE THINGS!

And we're allowed to "protest by marching down the street led by police and with a permit from the government we're protesting. We'll feel really good about what we've done and so will the people in power. We have our consciences relieved ("well, at least we tried") and those in power use the protest to brag about how free we are ("look, we allow protest").

"There is no protest if permission must be sought and rules abided by. We have allowed the form that our protest takes to be defined by those whom we protest against. Thus our protest is drained of it's power because we do not have the power to make our protest effective..."-Julius Lester

But what if people became truly effective in shutting down some government action (war maneuver, conference, celebration, etc.) instead of just "symbolically" protesting it? The reaction of the government would not be pleasant (just check out the sixties)! Only when protest is kept within certain boundaries is it allowed. We must take our protest out of these boundaries, become more creative, and become truly effective...

YOU ALONE CAN DO IT. THERE IS NO AUTHORITY BUT YOURSELF...

TACTICS

INTRO

Although our freedom of movement is protected by the constitution, the streets (like the rest of our lives) are closely patrolled by the authorities. We can reclaim this space. Today, the streets offer us the hope of building community, and of countering our isolation and dehumanization. If we can not freely gather, meet each other, express ourselves and demonstrate our feelings then how can we build community and hope to control our lives and future? Let's reclaim the streets and replace the commercialism and death dealing with community, creativity and life.

Die-ins By far the most popular way to disrupt the normal flow of business through the financial district. At least 5 people start counting down from 10 to 1 as they slowly move into an intersection. At "ground zero" everyone screams and collapses in the street as if nuked. Some people remain standing to make sure no one gets run over. Before the police can get there, the dead arise and move onto another strategic intersection.

Human Blockades Involve a willingness to be arrested. The idea is to use your body to obstruct the business of the offensive corporation. People chain themselves to the main entrance or lie in the doorway.

Occupations Occupation of missile test sites have prevented the tests themselves. Occupations of war corporations have shut them down for days. Worker's occupations of factories have prevented cold lock-outs during strikes and even provided a basis for what they call "auto-gestion" in Europe-- self managed factories that are "on strike" yet keep producing without taking orders from the bosses.

Consensus & Collective Process Too often so-called social change groups reproduce the hierarchy and hypocrisy of the establishment within their own working structures. Any revolution will be built on completely new social relationships. Begin this process in your own group -- end the tyranny of the majority rules (because we are all minorities). Consensus means everyone in the group agrees with the actions the group takes, or they can "block" a decision that violates their fundamental principles. The unity of purpose that rises from groups that use consensus is impossible to defeat.

Affinity Groups Small, trusting groups of people work better in the streets than masses of isolated demonstrators. If a small group wants to evade cops, they break down into smaller groups and reunite at an agreed-upon place. This confuses infiltrators and police that may be monitoring the activities.

Destruction of Property Recently an MX missile production facility was shut down when someone rolled a truck into the main transformer. Phonelines in LA were cut by saboteurs several weeks ago. While these are powerful actions, too many people romanticize sabotage without examining the actual impact and effect of their actions.

Weaving/Snake dancing Used in Japan successfully at demonstrations, it keeps the police from isolating individuals. Witches at Livermore linked arms and "weaved" throughout the road, slowing traffic for hours.

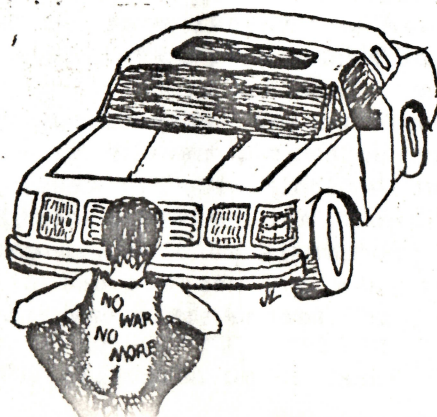
Theater Many groups have performed for audiences at demonstrations and had impact. But the separation between performers and observer has never been completely broken down, leaving people out of the action. Street theater can be done anywhere, on-the-spot, without rehearsal -- it's a dramatic form of communication.

Blockades with Physical Objects. Study the terrain of the city--what can be readily converted into a street obstacle?

Spray-painting This artistic vandalism really spoils a businessman's day and also the unity of his bourgeois aesthetic. It replaces the dead greyness with creativity and life.

Work Stoppages/Slowdowns Pull the plug out on your Xerox machine, crash the office computer system, drop that important letter in the wrong box. All of these actions help to undermine the system

Direct Communication Talk to and leaflet financial district workers and conventioners and encourage them to question their activities and redirect their efforts.



Publicity

Make your actions known. Send an anonymous communique describing what you've done to any of the following community newspapers:

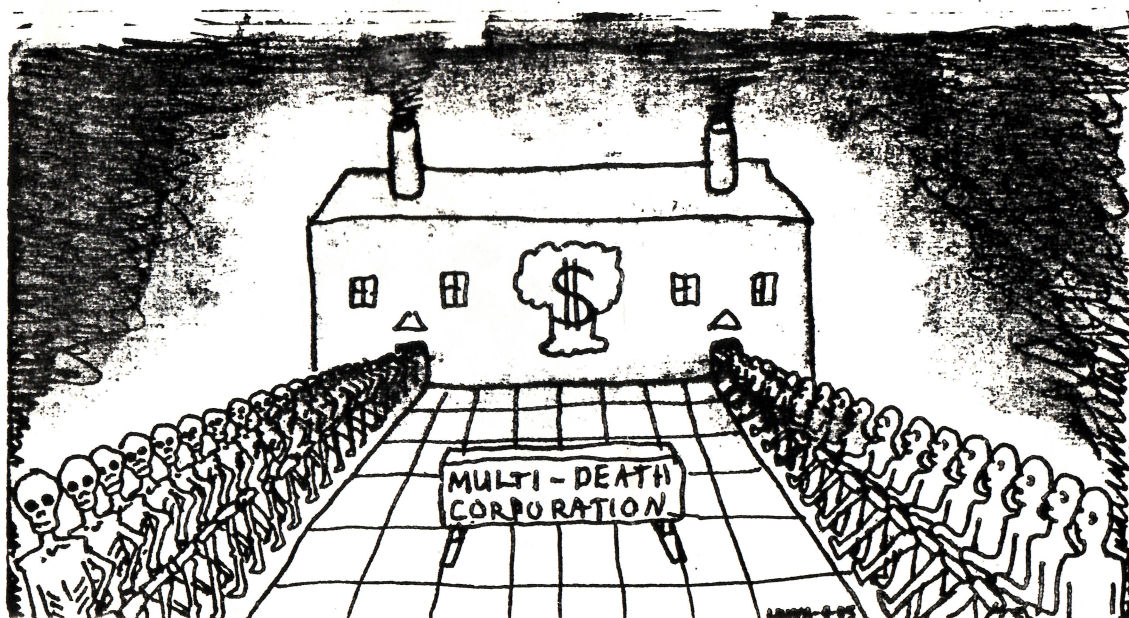
NOW Magazine, Clarion, AANN Bulletin, Kick It Over, Reality Now, Broadside, Body Politic, Kites, Scream, Strike, Peace Magazine

Student papers and radio stations should be contacted as well: CKLN, Eye Opener (kyerson), Varsity (U of T), Excaliber (York), Trent Radio, CFHU (McMaster)

Send communiques to the mainstream media, although experience in the past shows that our actions are usually ignored or sensationalized. It is up to us to inform each other of what is going on within the resistance community through personal contacts, networks, etc.

If we can be aware of others' actions, then we can counter-act feelings of desperation and loneliness. Depression is counter-revolutionary! We should be encouraging each other through examples of action, not just through theoretical talk and writings.

We will be acting continuously to take back control of our lives, not just on one day, and we'll be making the experience as pleasurable for ourselves and as annoying for powerful creeps as possible. C'mon along. Be imaginative!



SLIME TOUR '85

We will be gathering at Bay and Dundas in the park at the South-East corner for Toronto's 2nd Slime Tour.

Meet us there at 3:00 pm, April 29, 1985.

Bring your unicycles, bicycles, tricycles, skateboards, wheel chairs, roller skates, stilts, pogo sticks, scooters, shopping carts, wagons, feet, or any other mode of non-motorized transportation.

Bring along your noise-makers, musical instruments and any other source of happy sound you may desire.

Bring banners, balloons, signs and streamers and help us make colourful our moving street carnival. People of all ages will surely enjoy this festive event as we enliven some of Toronto's most deadly locations. We will be visiting such slime as mega-corporations, military and government institutions, exploitative businesses and anything else you may feel merits our attention.

Help us to publicise this event and No Business As Usual Day through the grapevine, or through the use of graffiti, stickers, posters, etc.

